Hiking the Inner Canyon: A guide

Grand Canyon National Park

Inner Canyon Hiking

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reservations Without Hassles 2
Hiking Without Hassles 3
Weather Conditions—Seasonal Hiking Tips 4
Average Temperatures and Precipitations 6
Eight Essentials: Things You Need On Your Hike 6
In Case of Emergency 7
Trails—General Information 8
Day Hikes 8
SOUTH RIM TRAILS
- Bright Angel Trail 9
- River Trail 9
- South Kaibab Trail 9
- Bright Angel & Kaibab Trail Map 10
- Hermit Trail 11
- Hermit, Waldron & Boucher Trail Map 12
- Waldron Trail—Dripping Springs Trail 13
- Boucher Trail 13
- Grandview Trail 14
- Grandview Trail & Hance Trail Map 15
- Hance Trails 16
- Tonto Trail 17
- Tanner Trail 18
- Tanner Trail Map 19
- South Bass Trail 20
- Havasupai Reservations Trails 20
- South Bass Trail Map 21

NORTH RIM TRAILS
- North Kaibab Trail 22
- Kaibab and Old Bright Angel Trails Map 23
- Old Bright Angel Trail 24
- Clear Creek Trail 24
- Clear Creek Trail Map 25
- Tuckup Trail 25
- Lava Falls Trail 26
- Thunder River Trail 26
- Thunder River Trail Map 27
- Nankoweap Trail 28
- Nankoweap Trail Map 28
- North Bass Trail 30
- North Bass Trail Map 31

Recommended Reading & Topographic Maps 32

RESERVATIONS WITHOUT HASSLES

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:

The number of campers in the Inner Canyon at any one time is limited. Groups may not have more than 15 persons. To insure a permit and your desired hike, make reservations in advance. (For addresses and phone numbers, see enclosure).

The heavily used areas — Bright Angel, Kaibab, Hermit, and Tonto Trails between Bright Angel and Hermit and the Thunder River/Deer Creek area — require reservatrions for specific campgrounds. Reservations for trailheads are required for all other trails. No campsite may be occupied for more than 2 nights per trip except Hermit Creek campsite where the limit is one night. There is a 7-night limit per hike between Hance Creek and 8 km (5 mi) west of Boucher Creek. Longer hikes are possible east and west of this area. In response to use and resource preservation factors, limits are subject to change.

Obtain your reservations as far in advance as possible. Reservations will only be accepted three months in advance. Reservations for the Easter period will be accepted beginning January 1.

PHANTOM RANCH:

Located at the base of the North Kaibab Trail near the Colorado River, this guest ranch is an overnight stopping point for hikers and mule riders. Meals, cabins, dormitory accommodations, and mule trips are available by reservation only (see enclosure). From March through October 31, and for holiday periods, make reservations 6 months in advance. A snack bar is open daily.

KENNELS:

Pets are not allowed in the canyon or on trails, so leave your dogs and cats at home or at the South Rim kennels. The kennel fee includes pet food (see enclosure). There are no kennels on the North Rim — leave your pet at home!

HAVASUPAI INDIAN RESERVATION:

In 1975, national park lands were transferred to the Havasupai Tribe. This land includes the former park service campground near Havasu Falls. ALL REQUESTS for information on camping, lodging, pack trips and hiking on the reservation should be directed to the Tribal Council (see enclosure).

HIKING WITHOUT HASSLES

The Inner Canyon is desert. The desert is fragile. Scars may remain for a hundred years or more. Park regulations are designed to protect the natural beauty of the canyon and to provide for visitor safety and enjoyment of the park. Treat Grand Canyon as if it belonged to your grandchildren—it will some day.

Open fires are prohibited below the canyon rim. All cooking must be done with backpack stoves or canned heat; or carry food that doesn't require cooking.

Can we camp on the sandy beaches? Yes, but only in designated wilderness camping areas—ask the ranger when you pick up your permit. BEWARE, the river level fluctuates widely, sometimes more than 2 meters (6 ft.) rise or fall overnight. An item placed near the river at night may be on its way to Lake Mead by morning.

What will happen to people who camp without a permit? This is a violation of our park regulations and results in a costly fine, and a possible jail sentence. For camping without hassles, get a permit.

Where can I stash my trash? You packed it in, you pack it out. Fair is fair.

Please, where chemical toilets are not provided, select an appropriate site with care — at least 200 feet from the nearest creek or trail. Dig a hole big enough so you can cover your feces with several inches of dirt. Carry out toilet paper, do not bury or burn it.

Is creek and spring water safe to drink? It may be, then again, it may not be safe to drink. For your own safety, purify all water from creeks, springs, and the Colorado River.

BLISTERS AND HEAT EXHAUSTION are the most common hiking problems in the canyon. Know how to prevent both.

Warning: thieves like to hike too; safeguard belongings. Rodents, skunks, etc., sometimes damage packs searching for and finding food.

Fishing? An Arizona fishing license is required and can be obtained at Babbitt's General Store on the South Rim.

One more time: Pets are not allowed in the canyon or on the trails. So, leave your barking dogs, etc., at home or at the South Rim kennels. There are no kennels on the North Rim.

WEATHER CONDITIONS—SEASONAL HIKING TIPS

SUMMER—June through August: Temperatures in the canyon often exceed 38 C (100 F) and sometimes exceed 46 C (115 F). These high temperatures plus normal hiking exertion reduce a person's efficiency to ½ of normal. TRAVEL LIGHT! The heaviest item in your pack should be water. For sleeping, take only a light blanket and a foam pad.

Beat the heat. Travel in the cooler parts of the day and wear loose clothing, a hat, long pants, and long sleeve shirt to provide protection from the sun and reduce water loss. Carry at least 2 liters (2 quarts) of water per person per day; perhaps twice this amount on some trails where water is scarce.

HEAT CRAMPS: Caused by physical exertion in hot environments as sweating depletes the blood and tissue salt level. Symptoms: Muscle cramps, there may be heavy sweating, skin is cold and clammy. Treatment: Salt deficiency is usually the problem so give the victim salt dissolved in water, about 1 teaspoon per liter (1 teaspoon per quart). Often too much water alone will bring on cramps. Rest. Heat cramps are a sign of approaching heat exhaustion.

HEAT EXHAUSTION: Usually caused by physical exertion during prolonged exposure to heat. Symptoms: Moist and clammy skin, weakness, dizziness, headache, pupils dialated, normal or subnormal body temperature, possible vomiting. Treatment: Rest in cool shaded area. Have victim lie down with feet elevated. Let the person drink a salt-water mixture. Get help.

HEAT STROKE: Normally caused by a failure in the person's body sweating mechanism causing the body to overheat during exertion. This is less common but far more serious. THE VICTIM MAY DIE if proper treatment is not given. Symptoms: Unconsciousness, dry, hot skin - appears to have fever and be very ill - very high body temperature - dry armpits. Treatment:

Cool the body immediately - get into shade, fan the body and sponge with water. Treatment should rid the body of excess heat. Remember the victim may die unless you actively work at lowering the victim's body temperature. GET HELP IMMEDIATELY.

WINTER—December through February: Usually the upper parts of the trails are snow packed and icy while the Inner Gorge is free of snow. The North Rim is closed from approximately November 1 through April 31.

HYPOTHERMIA: "Freezing to death," caused by exposure to cold, wet, windy weather. Most cases develop in air temperatures between -1 C and 10 C (30 F and 50 F). Prevention: stay dry, beware of wind, understand cold and what it can do to you. Symptoms: Persistent or violent shivering; vague, slow and slurred speech; frequent stumbling; exhaustion; memory lapses; incoherent. Treatment: Get out of the wind and rain, get into dry clothes, give victim warm drinks, and place them in a dry sleeping bag. If the victim is in bad condition, try to keep him or her awake and have another person get into the sleeping bag with the victim. Skin to skin contact is the most effective way to supply heat.

SPRING/FALL—March through May/September through November: Grand Canyon weather is generally ideal for hiking this time of year. However, spring and fall are also unpredictable. One day it may be warm and dry, the next day, it may be cold and wet. Often a breeze is blowing. Snows usually occur on the rims from late October through April.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATIONS

CELSIUS AND CENTIMETERS:

	South Rim			North Rim			Inner Gorge		
	Max	Min	Prec	Max	Min	Prec	Max	Min	Prec
Summer months	28	11	3.8	24	7	4.8	39	24	2.0
Fall months	18	3	3.0	14	-1	4.1	28	14	1.8
Winter months	6	-7	3.8	4	-8	7.8	14	3	2.0
Spring months	16	0	2.5	12	-2	4.6	28	13	1.3

FAHRENHEIT AND INCHES:

	South Rim			North Rim			Inner Gorge		
	Max	Min	Prec	Max	Min	Prec	Max	Min	Prec
Summer months	82	51	1.5	75	44	1.9	103	75	0.8
Fall months	64	37	1.2	58	31	1.6	83	58	0.7
Winter months	43	20	1.5	39	18	3.1	58	38	0.8
Spring months	60	32	1.0	53	28	1.8	82	56	0.5

EIGHT ESSENTIALS: THINGS YOU NEED ON YOUR HIKE

1. EXTRA FOOD AND WATER—Just in case something goes wrong and you spend more time in Grand Canyon than you had originally planned.
2. POCKET KNIFE—A hundred uses.
3. FIRST AID KIT—Designed to meet your specific needs.
4. SIGNAL MIRROR OR REFLECTOR: The sun's reflection from mirrors can be used to signal airplanes or people on the rim. A properly used signal mirror can be more effective than a smoky signal fire.

5. FLASHLIGHT
6. TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND COMPASS—and the ability to use them.
7. MATCHES—For use in building fires for treatment of hypothermia and for signal fires after the signal mirror has failed.
8. RESERVATIONS AND PERMITS—This lets us know where you are going and when you will be back. Be sure to check out when you return from wilderness trails.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Bright Angel and Kaibab Trails: If in need of assistance, contact a ranger at one of the ranger stations: Indian Gardens, Phantom Ranch area, and at Cottonwood (summer only). Emergency phones are located along the trails; see trail descriptions.

Wilderness Trails: Most brochures advise you to contact a ranger in case of emergency. This is little comfort when you are half way between Bass Trail and Boucher Creek and the nearest ranger that you know of is 30 kilometers away.

When you obtain your permit, you are required to leave a planned itinerary with the Backcountry Reservations Office and check out upon your return. If you have not checked in after your trip, a search party will start looking for you when you are 24 hours overdue. The cost of the search may be charged to the hiker. REMAIN ON YOUR ROUTE. Temporary loss of way can be expected even on the best of the old trails. It is best not to proceed far without regaining the route, even if this means retracing your steps. If you loose your way entirely, or if other emergencies occur, get as close to the trail as possible, listen for aircraft, stay calm. Lay your pack, tent, and/or clothing out in a cross. This distress signal can be spotted from the air.

Can I hike alone? Yes, but remember in emergency situations a lone and injured hiker has no one to help him or her and no one to go for help. In a two person party, either the uninjured person can go for help leaving the injured hiker alone, or the two can stick together and wait for help. From a safety standpoint, a three or more person party is better, as some can stay with the injured hiker and some can go for help.

TRAILS—GENERAL INFORMATION

Grand Canyon trails range from well-maintained to almost non-existent. Park Rangers strongly recommend that all hikers gain experience on the Bright Angel and Kaibab Trails before attempting the other trails. They speak from experience. The other trails are mostly old mining trails that have not been maintained for 50 years or more. Time and rock slides have obscured parts of all the old trails. At the same time, hiker use defines the trails more sharply.

The trail descriptions, topographic maps, and hiking times are not intended as guides but as possible aids.

As for water along the trails, there is little—in many cases none. Springs and streams shown on topographic maps do not necessarily indicate reliable water sources. Many are now dry. Water sources reliable at the time of this writing will be listed under trail descriptions. During dry years, even some of the springs listed may be dry.

Check with the Backcountry office for up-to-date information.

DAY HIKES

Permits or reservations ARE NOT NEEDED for day hikes in Grand Canyon. After choosing a trail, decide how many hours you wish to hike. In general, it takes about 1/3 of your time to hike down, 2/3 to hike up. If you have special interests such as bird watching, people watching, plant hunting, etc., one trail might be better than another. Inquire at park information centers for assistance and information about day hikes along the rim, etc.

SOUTH RIM TRAILS

It has been said without exaggeration that the Kaibab is a paved highway compared to the Tanner (a narrow dirt trail), but the Tanner is a paved highway compared to the Hance. It is important to be aware of trail differences. A general grouping of trails can be made. The Bright Angel, River, and Kaibab Trails are in the best condition, well-marked, and maintained year-round. The Hermit, Tonto, and

Waldron Trails would come next, followed by Tanner, Grandview, and South Bass. Finally, the Boucher, New Hance, and in a class by itself, the Old Hance. These last three are in bad shape and should not be attempted by hikers who have not first been down one of the trails in the intermediary group.

BRIGHT ANGEL TRAIL

The trail is in good condition, well-marked, and maintained year-round. It takes about 4-5 hours to descend to the Bright Angel Campground, with a return trip to the rim averaging about 7-8 hours. This is a distance of 15.3 km (9.5 mi) one way, and includes the River Trail.

Two resthouses with emergency telephones and water (May 1 through September 30) are located 2.4 and 4.8 km (1.5 and 3 mi) below the rim. Camping, water, resthouses, tables, and a ranger station are at Indian Gardens 7.2 km (4.5 mi) below the rim. Descending to the Gardens takes about 2 hours, 4-5 hours returning to the rim. A side trail leaves Indian Gardens for Plateau Point.

Below Indian Gardens, the trail follows near Garden Creek for about 2 km (1.2 mi). This stretch of the trail is an excellent place to find wildflowers. The trail leaves the creek just before the final descent into the Inner Gorge. It meets the River Trail just above the river.

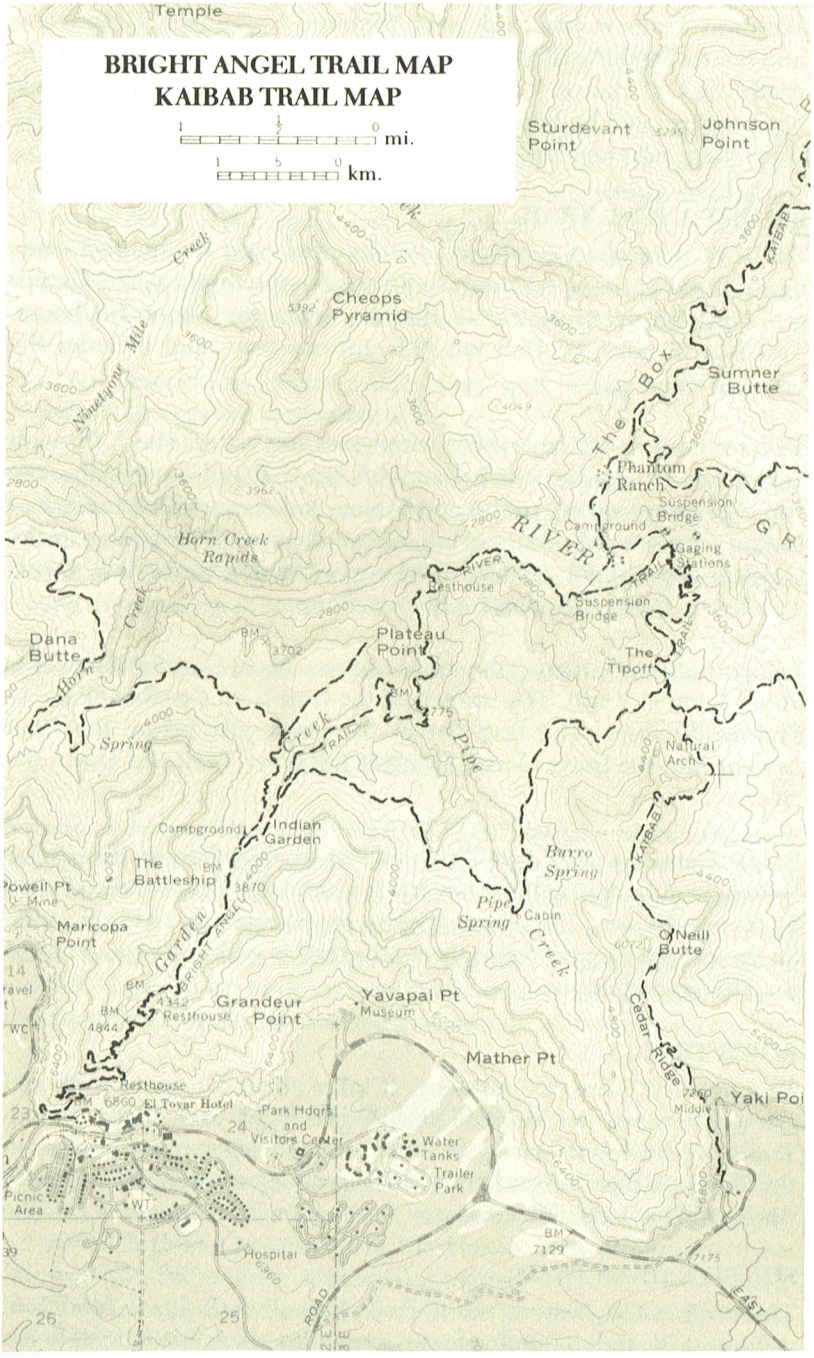
Ralph Cameron and Pete Berry widened this former Havasupai Indian Trail in the 1890's. They made it into a toll road and collected $1 from each user. The county took over toll rights in 1912. In 1928, the county gave up the toll rights to the trail in exchange for an access road to Grand Canyon.

RIVER TRAIL

This trail is 2.7 km (1.7 mi) long. It takes about 1 hour to walk and extends between the bases of the Bright Angel and South Kaibab Trails. It parallels the river. Two suspension bridges cross the river to the Phantom Ranch Area. In the summer, this trail should be avoided during the hot part of the day.

SOUTH KAIBAB TRAIL

This trail is the steepest rim-to-river trail. It is in good condition, well-marked, and maintained year-round. It is 10.1 km (6.3 mi) to the


BRIGHT ANGEL TRAIL MAP
KAIBAB TRAIL MAP
1 ½ 0 mi.
1 .5 0 km.
Temple
Sturdevant Point
Johnson Point
Cheops Pyramid
Ninetyone Mile Creek
Sumner Butte
The Box
Phantom Ranch
Suspension Bridge
Campground
Gaging Stations
Horn Creek Rapids
Resthouse
Suspension Bridge
Dana Butte
Horn Creek
Plateau Point
The Tipoff
Spring
Natural Arch
Indian Garden
Campground
Burro Spring
The Battleship
Powell Pt
Mine
Maricopa Point
Pipe Spring
Cabin
O'Neill Butte
Garden Creek
Grandeur Point
Yavapai Pt
Museum
Mather Pt
Resthouse
El Tovar Hotel
Park Hdqrs. and Visitors Center
Water Tanks
Trailer Park
Picnic Area
Hospital
Cedar Ridge
Yaki Poi
Middle
EAST ROAD

river and takes about 3-4 hours to go down, 6-8 hours up. There are no campgrounds, no water, and little shade. Canyon views are excellent because the trail follows ridges rather than staying within drainages of side canyons. Don't attempt an ascent during the summer.

Chemical toilets are located at Cedar Ridge, 2.4 km (1.5 mi) below the rim. Below Cedar Ridge, the trail varies from level to steep. Although steep, the descent of the Redwall offers some good views. An emergency phone and chemical toilet are located near the Tipoff on the Tonto Plateau. About 0.8 km (0.5 mi) below the Tipoff, on a red rocky knoll, is Panorama Point. From here, one can see the Phantom Ranch area and the Colorado River. Below Panorama Point, the trail switchbacks down the Inner Gorge and meets the River Trail and the 1928 Kaibab suspension bridge to Bright Angel Campground and Phantom Ranch.

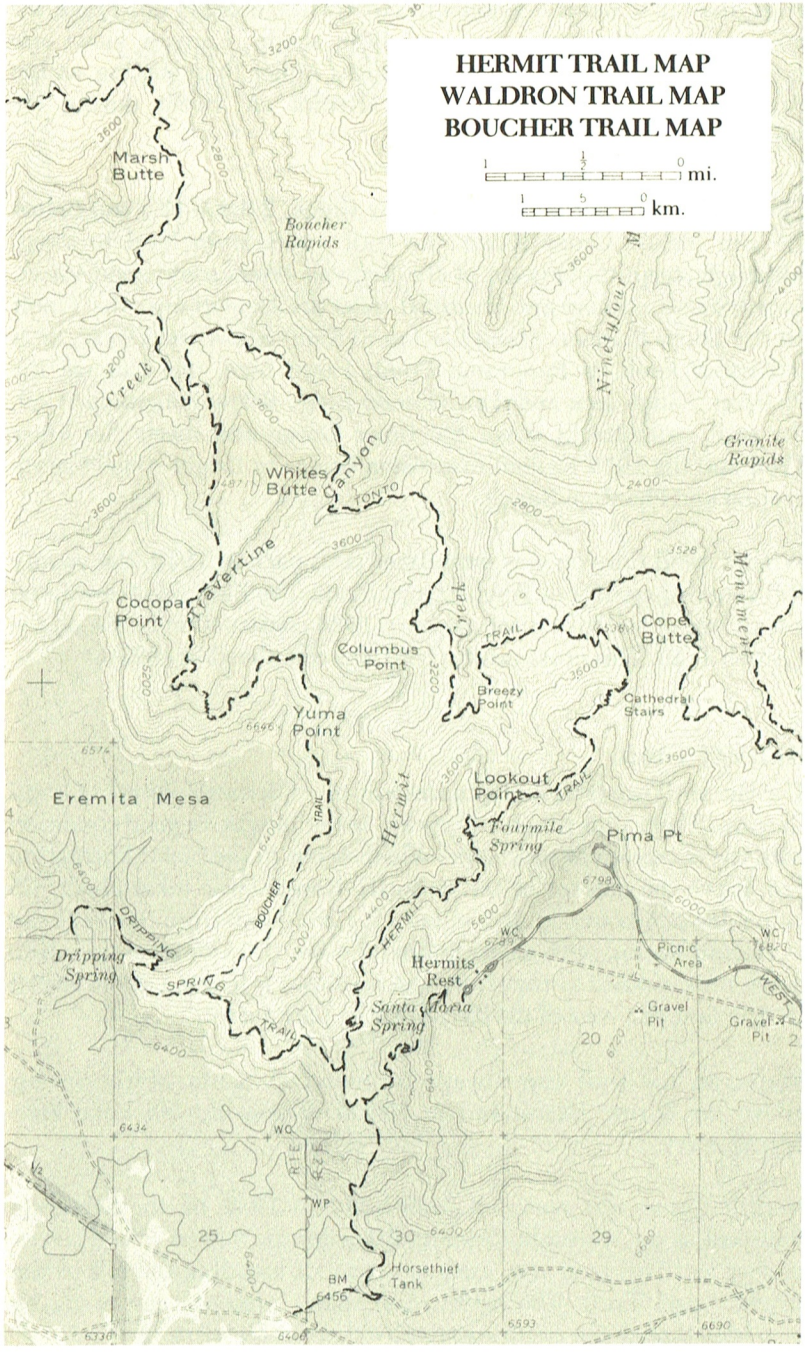
When Grand Canyon was established as a park in 1919, the county still retained control of Bright Angel Trail. The Park Service wanted a trail free of toll for visitor use so in 1924 construction began on the Kaibab Trail. This cross canyon trail was completed in 1928.

HERMIT TRAIL

The Hermit Trail is a good introduction to wilderness hiking in Grand Canyon. The trail is rough and rocky, but otherwise in good condition with the exception of rock slides which occur in the Supai Formation just above the descent of the Redwall. Rim-to-river takes about 4-5 hours down, 8 hours up. It is about 11.3 km (7 mi) from the trailhead to Hermit Camp, with an additional 2.4 km (1.5 mi) from the camp down the creekbed to the river. The trailhead is located at the end of the fire lane just west of the Hermit's Rest parking lot.

Water on the trail can always be found at Santa Maria Spring above the Spring House and in Hermit Creek. Purify! Four Mile Spring is dry.

Hermit Camp was operated from 1912 to 1930 by the Santa Fe Railroad as an overnight stopping place for visitors on Fred Harvey mule trips. This trail was used as a way of avoiding the toll of the Bright Angel Trail. The evidence of man's presence can easily be seen even though the camp was removed about 50 years ago.


HERMIT TRAIL MAP
WALDRON TRAIL MAP
BOUCHER TRAIL MAP
mi.
km.
Marsh Butte
Boucher Rapids
Creek
Travertine
Whites Butte
Canyon
TONTO
Granite Rapids
Ninetyfour
Cocopa Point
Columbus Point
Yuma Point
Breezy Point
Cope Butte
Cathedral Stairs
Monument
TRAIL
Eremita Mesa
Hermit
Lookout Point
Tourmile Spring
Pima Pt
Dripping Spring
BOUCHER
HERMIT
Hermits Rest
Picnic Area
Gravel Pit
Santa Maria Spring
WEST
RIM
WP
BM
Horsethief Tank

The trail passes these ruins and drops down into the creekbed to the Hermit Creek campsite. A chemical toilet is provided because of high use and endangered water supply. Although thick, the vegetation along the creek is delicate. Following established paths and camping in designated areas will help preserve this lush greenery. It will also reduce contacts with the rattlesnakes who live here and try to keep away from people.

WALDRON TRAIL—DRIPPING SPRINGS TRAIL

The Waldron Trail leads south for 2.4 km (1.5 mi) through Hermit Basin and up to the rim in a series of well defined switchbacks. At the rim, the trail turns left (SE) for .8 km (0.5 mi) following the south bank of a large drainage to Horsethief Tank and a fire road. A nice day hike consists of going down the Hermit Trail to the basin, up the Waldron, along the fire road, and finally cutting cross-country back to Hermits Rest. This loop hike takes about 6 hours and covers 9.7 km (6 mi). There is no water along the way.

A side trail to Dripping Springs also leaves the Hermit Trail in the Basin. The trail is easy to follow, but it is rather near the edge of a cliff. Once you leave the Hermit Trail in the basin, it is 2.4 km (1.5 mi) to Dripping Springs. At Dripping Springs, water can be found year-round. Standing at the Springs facing the cliff, the Boucher Trail is to the right and goes up to the rim. A strenuous but worthwhile trip is from Hermits Rest to Dripping Springs, up to the rim, and left at all fire road intersections to the Waldron Trail, then down to Hermit Basin and up to Hermits Rest. This loop trip takes about 8 hours and covers 16.1 km (10 mi).

BOUCHER TRAIL

The Boucher Trail is one of the more difficult Grand Canyon Trails. It is most easily reached via the Hermit and Dripping Springs Trails. It is a distance of 17.7 km (11 mi) from Hermits Rest to Boucher Creek. Allow 5-6 hours for descent, 9-10 hours for ascent. If coming from Hermit Basin, leave the Dripping Springs Trail where it first crosses a major drainage entering from the west. Cut cross-country and north onto the broad shelf of the Hermit Shale. The trail stays more-or-less at the same elevation for the next 4.8 km (3 mi), and back from the Supai cliff edge about 23 m (75 ft).

About 1.6 km (1 mi) beyond Columbus Point, the trail descends through the Hermit-Supai Formations. The start of this descent is poorly marked by a few low rock cairns. This spot must be found before proceeding onward. The route drops down to the top of the Redwall, cuts across Whites Butte Saddle and descends the Redwall down a steep, narrow drainage to the Tonto Plateau. The trail continues down to Boucher Creek. The footing on the descent is loose and hazardous in some areas.

Water can be found year-round at Dripping Springs, Boucher Creek, or by following Boucher Creek to the river.

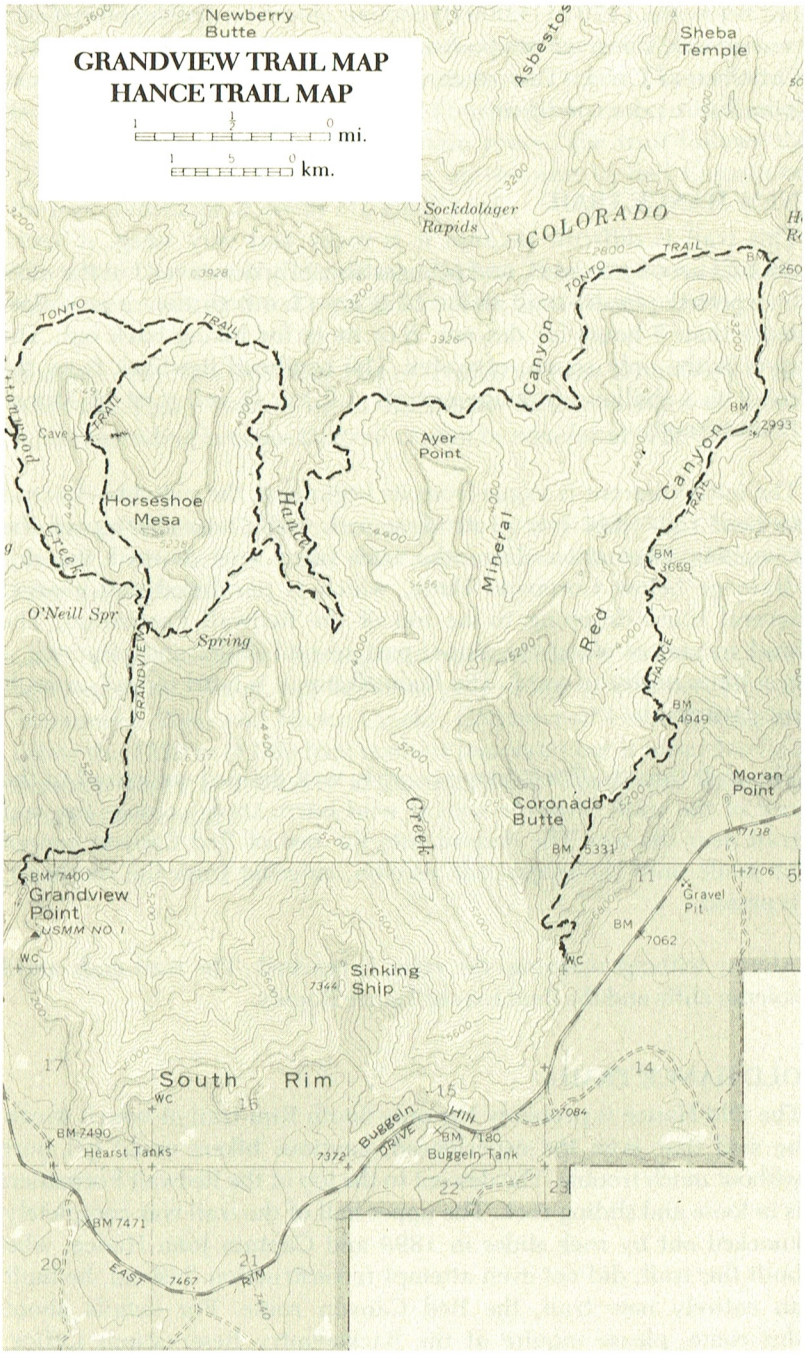
"The Hermit," Louis D. Boucher made his home at Dripping Springs. He built the trail from the Springs to his cabin and garden in Boucher Creek. Oranges, peaches, figs, chili, and other fruits and vegetables were grown here. His copper and asbestos mines were not profitable, so in 1919, he moved to Utah.

GRANDVIEW TRAIL

The trail to Horseshoe Mesa is rough but not difficult. It is 4.8 km (3 mi) to the Mesa and takes about 2 hours to go down, twice as long returning. In the winter the top portion of the trail can be quite hazardous due to compacted snow and ice on a very narrow trail. There is no water on the Mesa. The trailhead is just north of the Grandview Point parking lot.

Pete Berry established the "Last Chance Copper Mine" on the Mesa in 1890. The mines have been designated as an historical area and care should be taken to retain its historical integrity. Camp well away from mine shafts, structures, or remains of structures to help preserve the relics of this past era.

The three trails leading off of the sides of the Mesa to the Tonto Trail are steep and rough. The east side trail contains two dangerous sections where the trail has washed away, though these can be circumvented with caution. A permanent source of water lies at the end of a short spur trail at the base of the eastern descent (see map). Hikers are prohibited from camping in this area as it would threaten this beautiful spring oasis as a water source for wildlife. Hance Canyon provides good camping areas and a permanent water supply can be found about 3.2 km (2 mi) downstream from the east side spring. Cottonwood Spring


GRANDVIEW TRAIL MAP
HANCE TRAIL MAP
1 ½ 0 mi.
1 5 0 km.
Newberry Butte
Asbestos
Sheba Temple
Sockdolager Rapids
COLORADO
TONTO TRAIL
Cave
Horseshoe Mesa
Hance Creek
Ayer Point
Mineral Canyon
Red Canyon
O'Neill Spr
Spring
GRANDVIEW TRAIL
Coronado Butte
Moran Point
BM 7400
Grandview Point
USMM NO. 1
Sinking Ship
Gravel Pit
BM 7062
South Rim
BM 7490
Hearst Tanks
Buggeln Drive
BM 7180
Buggeln Tank
BM 7471
EAST RIM

just below the 1220 M (4,000 ft) contour elevation also supplies water year-round. The river can be reached by means of a side trail west of Cottonwood Creek. This route is very difficult to find and ranges from fair to poor condition.

NEW HANCE TRAIL

This trail is difficult because it is rocky and very steep, it veers, doubles around corners, and plunges abruptly downward in the most unexpected places. It is about 12.9 km (8 mi) to the river. Allow more than 6 hours for descent, 8 or more for hiking back out. The river is the only source of water. The trailhead lies back from the road in a shallow drainage exactly 1.6 km (1 mi) west of Moran Point turnoff.

The initial descent is vague from its beginning, the switchbacks tend to bear right past two protruding rock walls near the top of the Coconino Formation. Here the trail turns west toward the dry drainage below Coronado Butte, which is paralleled and crossed several times dropping to the top of the Redwall Formation. The trail meanders along the slope, past several slides and climbing a few times northeastward. The Redwall break is hard to find, consult maps carefully.

The trail thru the Tonto slope is fairly well defined compared to the rest of the trail, however several wild burro trails confuse the real trail near the top. The descent into the bed of Red Canyon cannot be made until the major side canyon, entering from the southeast, is passed.

Almost without warning, the river is reached. The trail ends amid solemn cliffs and the loud roar of Hance Rapids.

OLD HANCE TRAIL

The Old Hance is probably the only South Rim trail of which it can be said that even the experienced, cautious hikers could get hurt without much trouble. The descent to the top of the Redwall Formation is in loose and sliding rock. The upper half of the trail was completely knocked out by rock slides in 1894 and Captain John Hance, who built this trail, did not even attempt reconstruction. Instead, he built an entirely new trail, the Red Canyon route. For details about this route, please inquire at the Backcountry Reservations Office.

TONTO TRAIL

The main use of the Tonto Trail in the past has been to maneuver within the canyon between various rim-to-river trails. The trail is not level and offers very little shade. Wild burros have made trails leading in every direction to confuse the main route. The trail follows the Tonto Plateau from Garnet Canyon on the west to Red Canyon on the east, a distance of about 116 km (72 mi).

The section between the Hermit and Kaibab Trails 19.8 km (12.3 mi.) was once maintained and is easier to follow than other sections.

Boucher, the New and Old Hance Trails, and the Grandview Trail from the Tonto Plateau up to Horseshow Mesa are hard to follow while ascending because the trail cannot be seen far ahead.

Crossing Mineral Canyon from east to west is difficult. The trail crosses where the first major side canyon comes into Mineral Canyon from the southeast.

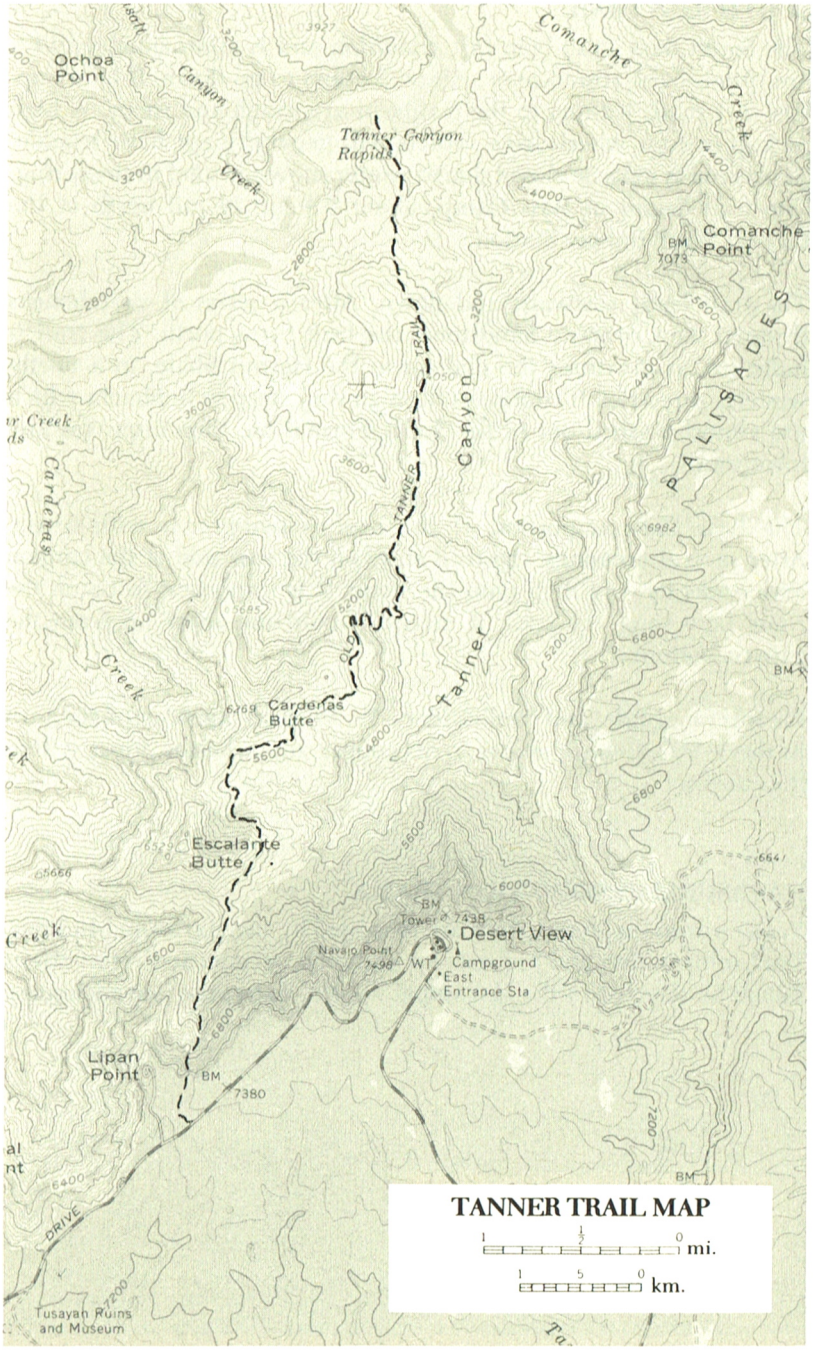
Carry plenty of water. Springs and streams shown on maps cannot be counted on. Water can be found year-round in Boucher, Hermit, Monument, Pipe, and Hance Creeks. Cottonwood Creek Spring just below the 1220 m (4,000 feet) contour has water but it is hard to find. Seasonal water is available at Garnet, Ruby, Turquoise, Slate, and Grapevine Creeks.

TANNER TRAIL

The trail is indistinct in places. It is long and dry and offers little shade. It is about 12.9 km (8 mi) long and takes about 5-6 hours to go down, 6-8 hours up. Low rock cairns mark critical sections, but if in doubt remember that the Tanner is a trail which prefers ridges over drainages. Carry extra water in summer caching some at the top of the Redwall. The river is the only source of water.

The trail starts about 91 meters (100 yards) east of Lipan Point. 75 Mile Saddle may be crossed either on its ridge or along the drainage just to the east. After going along the slopes of Escalante and Cardenas Buttes for about 4.8 km (3 mi) the trail turns to the east and switchbacks down the Redwall. Shale slopes below the Redwall have begun to show severe signs of erosion resulting from hikers running down these tempting, gentle sloping hills. Impact can be minimized by following the trail as it descends rather gradually down to Tanner Wash.

Seth Tanner, a Mormon settler, improved this former Indian trail and constructed the upper section in the 1890's. This trail was reportedly used by thieves to herd stolen horses across the canyon, connecting with the Nankoweap Trail.


Ochoa Point
Canyon
Creek
Tanner Canyon Rapids
Comanche Creek
Comanche Point
BM 7073
PALISADES
TRAIL
Canyon
Tanner
Cardenas Creek
Cardenas Butte
6769
Escalante Butte
5666
Creek
Lipan Point
BM 7380
Tower 7438
Desert View
Navajo Point 7498
Campground
East Entrance Sta
DRIVE
Tusayan Ruins and Museum
TANNER TRAIL MAP
1 0 mi.
1 5 0 km.

SOUTH BASS TRAIL

The South Bass Trail is in fair condition and is approximately 14.5 km (9 mi) from rim-to-river. Allow 5 hours to go down, 9 hours up. The dirt roads leading to the trailhead are rough and rocky. A high pickup or four wheel drive vehicle will generally not have trouble. Access roads may be closed due to winter snows or mud in the spring. The trail begins at Bass Camp, about 6.4 km (4 mi) north of the Pasture Wash Ranger Station.

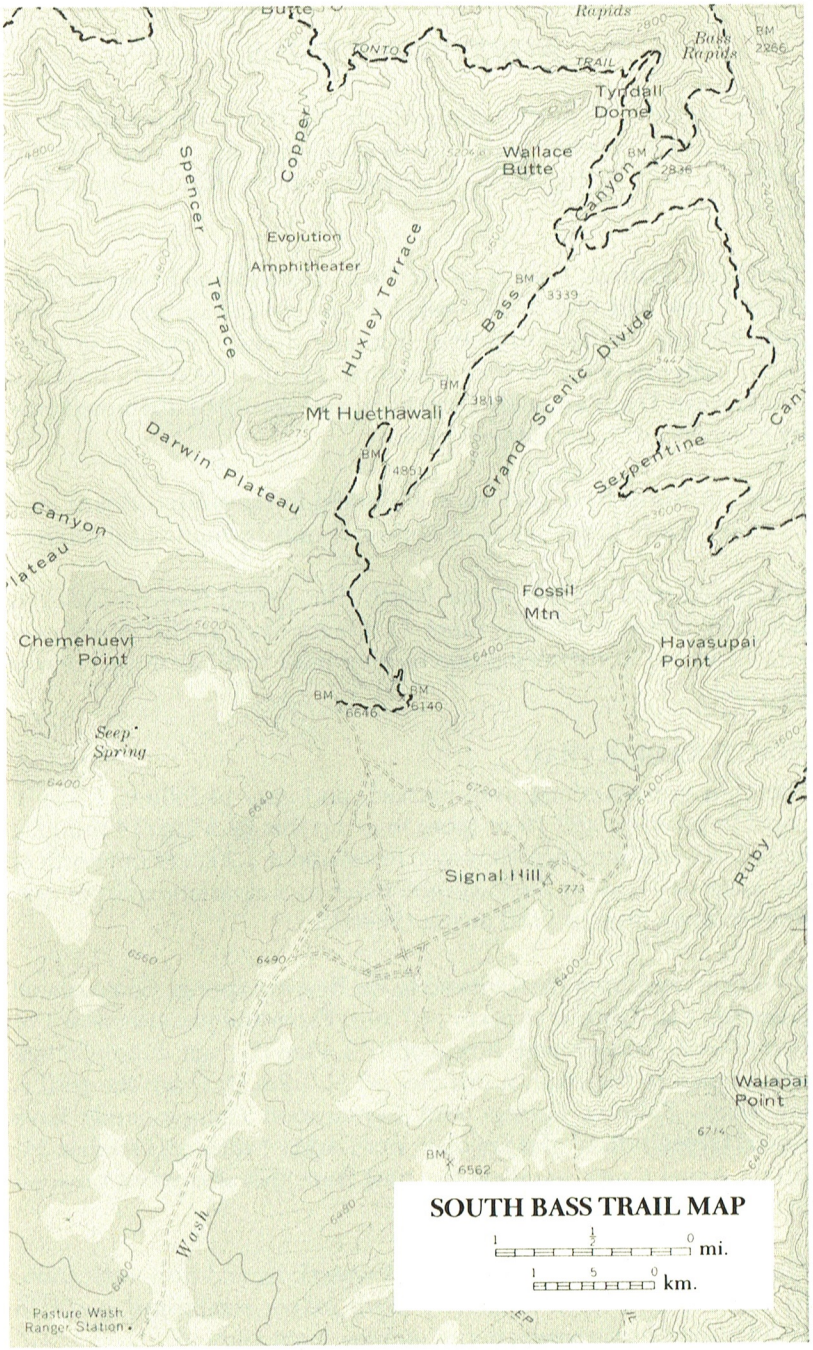
The trail leads eastward and down. After a series of switchbacks through the Coconino Sandstone, the trail turns north. The trail is indistinct as it crosses the plateau in the Hermit Shale, in a northwesterly direction. It continues through very steep switchbacks which are almost washed out in the Supai Formation, then improves and turns south.

The Bass Canyon portion of the trail is overgrown with brush. After several crossings, the trail stays on the east side of the canyon and works its way high onto the slope. It is important to be on the route here since the trail, if missed, would not show up from the canyon bottom.

Prospector, guide, and trailbuilder—W. W. Bass constructed the trail in the 1890's to have access to his copper and asbestos mines within the canyon.

HAVASUPAI RESERVATION TRAILS

Trails within the Reservation are managed by the Havasupai Indians. Trail information and requests for camping permits and reservations should be directed to the Havasupai Tourist Enterprise (see enclosure).


Rapids
Bass Rapids
BM 2266
TONTO
TRAIL
Tyndall Dome
Wallace Butte
BM 2836
Canyon
Copper
Spencer
Terrace
Evolution Amphitheater
Huxley Terrace
Bass
BM 3339
Grand Scenic Divide
BM 3819
Mt Huethawali
Darwin Plateau
BM 4851
Serpentine
Canyon
Fossil Mtn
Chemehuevi Point
Havasupai Point
BM 6640
BM 6140
Seep Spring
Signal Hill
Ruby
Walapai Point
BM 6562
Wash
Pasture Wash Ranger Station
SOUTH BASS TRAIL MAP
1 ½ 0 mi.
1 5 0 km.

NORTH RIM TRAILS

Of the several rim-to-river trails, only the North Kaibab is maintained. There are few connecting trails to give them unity and since the trails are south facing, they are generally hotter than the South Rim trails.

The North Kaibab Trail is in excellent condition and well-marked. Clear Creek and Old Bright Angel Trails are in fair condition and generally not too hard to follow. Thunder River, Tuckup, and Lava Falls Trails are in fair to poor condition. Finally, the North Bass and Nankoweap Trails are in bad condition and should be attempted only by experienced Grand Canyon hikers.

Access to North Rim trailheads is limited in the winter. Roads may be closed due to heavy snows or accessible only by four-wheel drive.

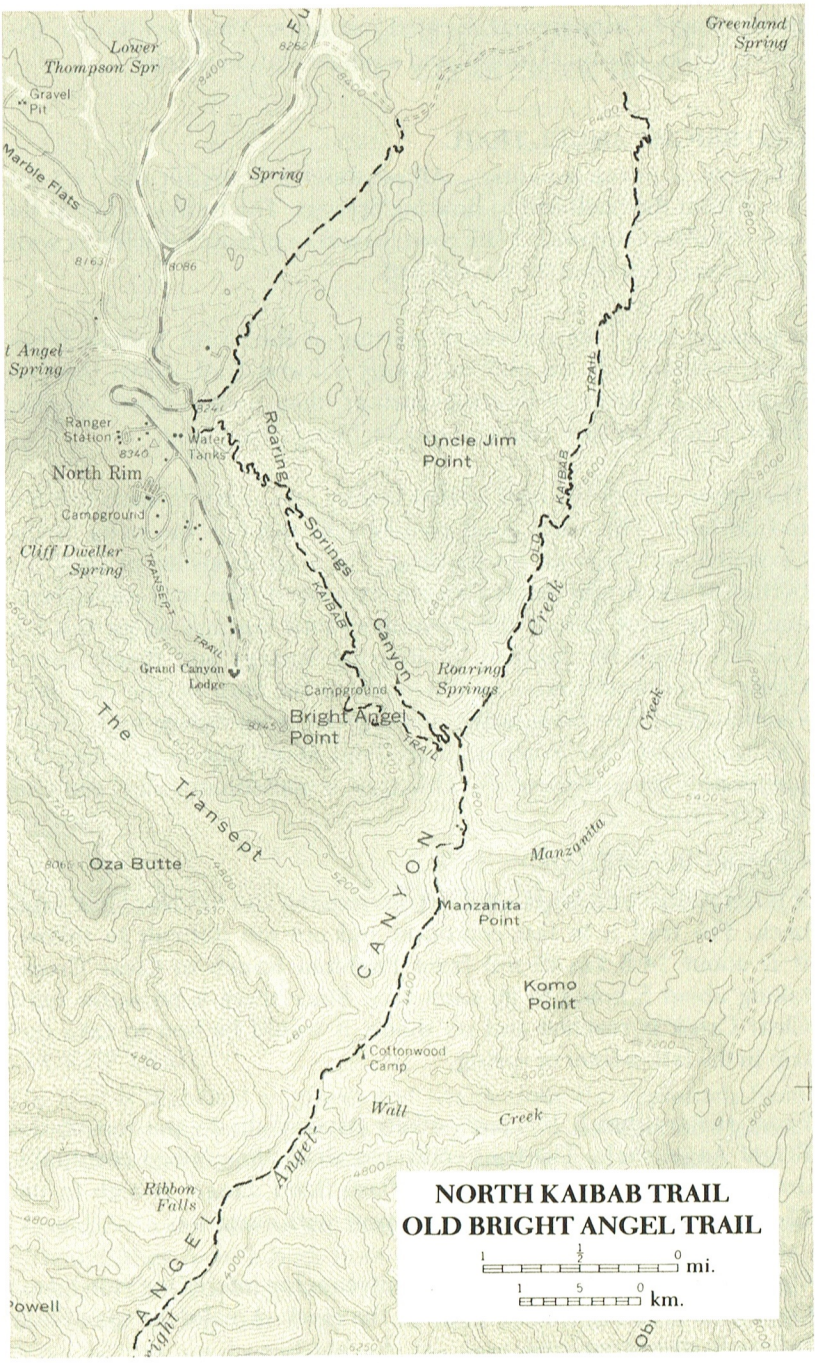
The paved road leading to the North Rim Grand Canyon Lodge is normally closed from November 1 through May 1. Dirt roads may also be closed in the spring due to deep mud and fallen trees across the road.

NORTH KAIBAB TRAIL

The trail is maintained, well-marked, and easy to follow. Allow 6 hours to go down and 10 or more to go up this 22.5 km (14 mi) long trail. It starts in a spruce, fir, aspen forest about 3.2 km (2 mi) north of the lodge and ends at the Colorado River in a riparian environment. The elevation drop in 1780 meters (5840 ft).

It is fairly steep from the trailhead to the Roaring Springs Campground junction, a distance of 7.6 km (4.7 mi). From the junction down to Cottonwood Campground, it is another 3.4 km (2.1 mi). From Cottonwood down to the river, a distance of 11.7 km (7.3 mi), the trail is not steep. Roaring Springs and Cottonwood Campgrounds have water, tables, toilets, and are open from April 1 through October 31. Bright Angel Creek parallels the trail from just above Cottonwood to the river.

Ribbon Falls is a desert oasis of cool waterfalls and lush vegetation. As this beautiful area is heavily used, follow established paths to avoid trampling the vegetation. Camping is not allowed.


Greenland Spring
Lower Thompson Spr
Gravel Pit
Marble Flats
Spring
8163
8086
Angel Spring
Ranger Station
8340
Water Tanks
North Rim
Campground
Cliff Dweller Spring
TRANSEPT
TRAIL
Grand Canyon Lodge
Roaring Springs
KAIBAB TRAIL
Uncle Jim Point
Old
Creek
Canyon
Campground
Bright Angel Point
Roaring Springs
The Transept
Oza Butte
Manzanita
Manzanita Point
Komo Point
CANYON
Cottonwood Camp
Wall
Creek
Ribbon Falls
ANGEL
Angel
Powell
NORTH KAIBAB TRAIL
OLD BRIGHT ANGEL TRAIL
1 ½ 0 mi.
1 5 0 km.

Bright Angel Campground, located just below Phantom Ranch, has water, tables, chemical toilets, and a ranger station nearby.

OLD BRIGHT ANGEL TRAIL

The trail is in fair condition. Allow about 5 hours for the 11.3 km 7 mi) from the trailhead to Roaring Springs. The trailhead lies at the end of Fuller Canyon E-2 fire road (closed to private vehicles), a walk of 3.2 km (2 mi) from the paved road.

A popular loop hike consists of starting at the North Kaibab Trailhead, walking 5.6 km (3.5 mi) along a forest trail, down the Old Bright Angel Trail to Roaring Springs, then up the North Kaibab Trail. This 2-day loop hike is about 24.1 km (15 mi) long.

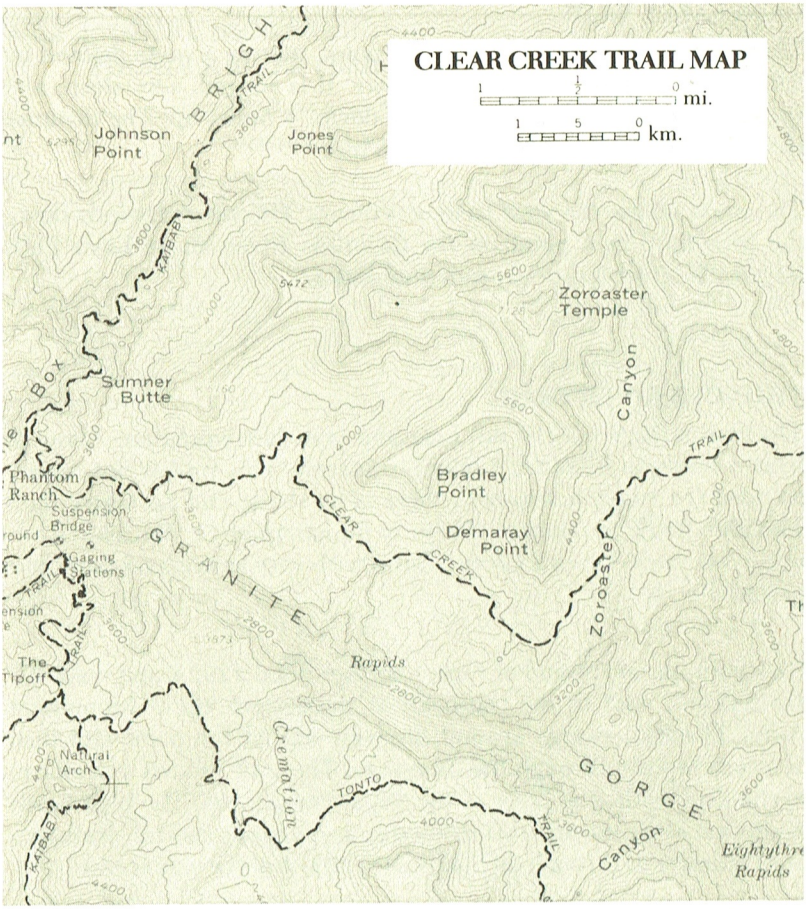
The upper part of the trail is very brushy and rocky in spots but not too difficult. There are good switchbacks through the talus in the Coconino and Redwall Formations. The trail drops down near the bottom of the Bright Angel Canyon streambed. The trail stays above and on the west side of the streambed until you are about 0.8 km (0.5 mi) above the junction of Roaring Springs and Bright Angel Creeks. You should cross at this point to the trail on the east side. Caution should be taken when crossing the creek during high water. The trail meets the North Kaibab Trail about one mile below the junction of these two creeks. This trail is sometimes called the Old Kaibab Trail.

CLEAR CREEK TRAIL

It is normally considered a 4-day trip from the rim to Clear Creek and back. The trail is in fair condition and not too difficult to follow. It is about 14.5 km (9 mi) from Phantom Ranch to Clear Creek, taking about 5 hours to go each way. Since there is no water until Clear Creek is reached and no shade, it would be best to take this trip in the fall, winter or spring.

From the trailhead, the path winds its way up to the top of the Bright Angel shale. The trail continues along the plateau eventually dropping down into Clear Creek. Flash flood danger is high in the Clear Creek drainage so select a campsite with care.

One can either go upstream or downstream for interesting side hikes. Occasionally, trout can be found in the creek. A valid Arizona State fishing license is required.



TUCKUP TRAIL

The trail is indistinct in places and winds along the Esplanade from lower Toroweap Valley east to Boysag Point, a distance of approximately 103 km (64 mi). The trail is still passable even to horses.

Dependable water sources are Schmutz, June, and Cottonwood Springs. Although they have a high lime content, they are still usable. Tule, Cork, and Dome Springs are dry during summer months and dependable in the spring only if there has been sufficient winter moisture. Water pockets are dependable only for short periods after heavy rains.

LAVA FALLS TRAIL

There is no constructed trail at any point, merely a route defined by rock cairns at intervals along the way. It is rugged, very steep, and rocky. Allow at least 2 hours to go down, 4 hours up. The distance from rim-to-river is about 2.4 km (1.5 mi).

The route leaves the west base of Vulcans Throne and winds down the lava flow to a point on the Colorado River above Lava Falls Rapid. The river is the only source of water.

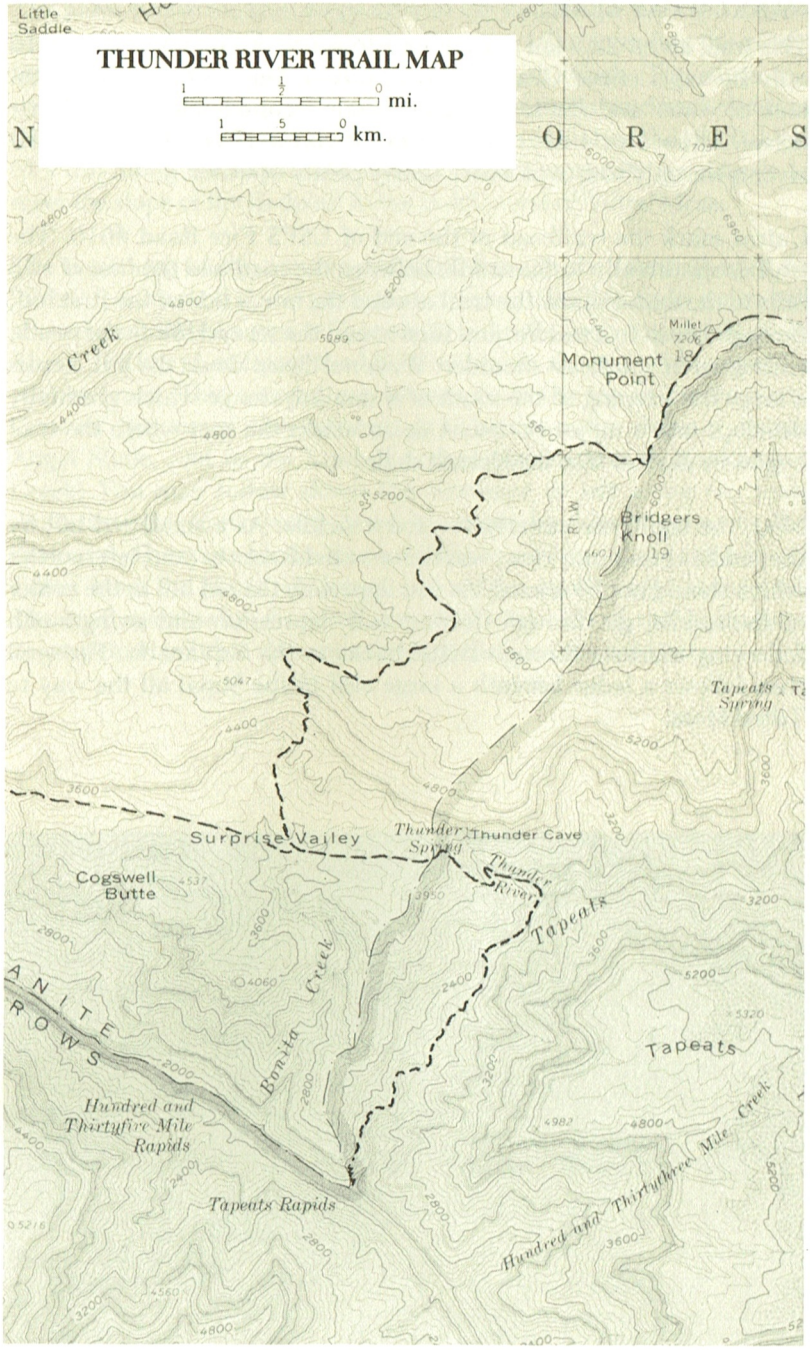
THUNDER RIVER TRAIL

The trail is 12.9 km (10 mi) long and is in fair condition. Allow at least 5 hours to descend, 8 hours to ascend. This trail is not recommended for summer travel as there is no shade and no water until Thunder River is reached. There is no camping on Thunder River until you reach Tapeats Creek. Camp with care as this area is subject to flash floods.

Park your car at the end of Forest Service Road #292A and walk 0.8 km (0.5 mi) west to the trailhead at the eastern tip of Monument Point. The trail swings around the west side of the point and then descends rapidly through the limestone. The trail follows a drainage to the Esplanade (top layer of the Supai Formation). The trail heads southwest after leaving this drainage, and rounds several drainages until it descends through the Redwall. The rest of the way is easy!

Thunder River is only 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) long and it empties into Tapeats Creek. From this junction down to the river is 4.0 km (2.5 mi). Cairns mark this rough trail. Cross to the east side of Tapeats Creek about 0.8 km (0.5 mi) below the junction. Continue on another 1.6 km (1 mi) then cross back to the west side. Crossing the creek during high water can be extremely dangerous. The trail remains on the west side and eventually switchbacks down to the river.

A side trail heads west for Deer Creek in Surprise Valley. Follow the drainage that heads due west into Deer Creek. It goes along the bed of Deer Creek on the west side for about 0.8 km (0.5 mi) to a point where one can see the river below. The trail goes to the west and soon drops down to the river and Deer Creek Falls.

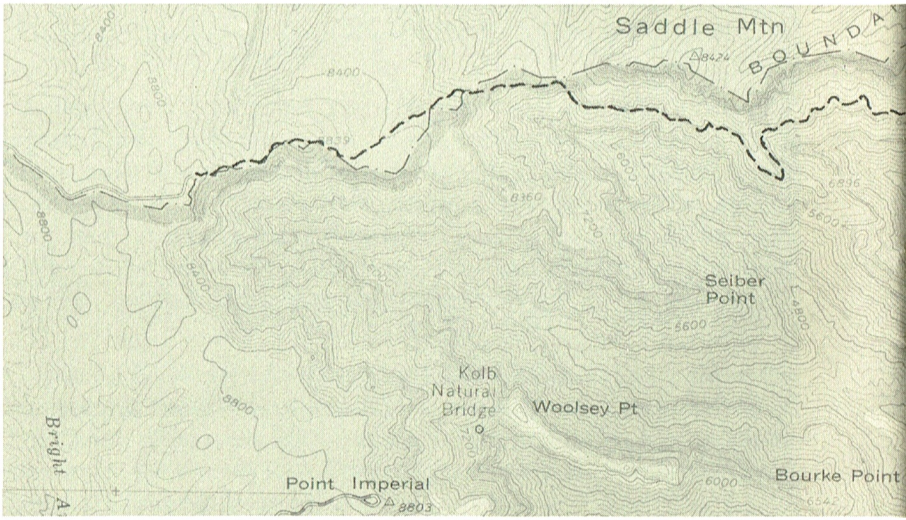

THUNDER RIVER TRAIL MAP
1 1/2 0 mi.
1 5 0 km.
Little Saddle
Monument Point
Millet
Bridgers Knoll
Tapeats Spring
Surprise Valley
Thunder Spring
Thunder Cave
Thunder River
Cogswell Butte
Tapeats
Bonita Creek
Hundred and Thirtyfive Mile Rapids
Tapeats Rapids
Hundred and Thirtythree Mile Creek
R1W

NANKOWEAP TRAIL

This trail, about 22.5 km (14 mi) long to the river, should be attempted only by experienced Grand Canyon hikers. Due to the trail length, lack of water and shade, this trail is not recommended for summer travel. Allow 3 or 4 days to go from the rim-to-river and return. The river is the only source of water - carry plenty of water.

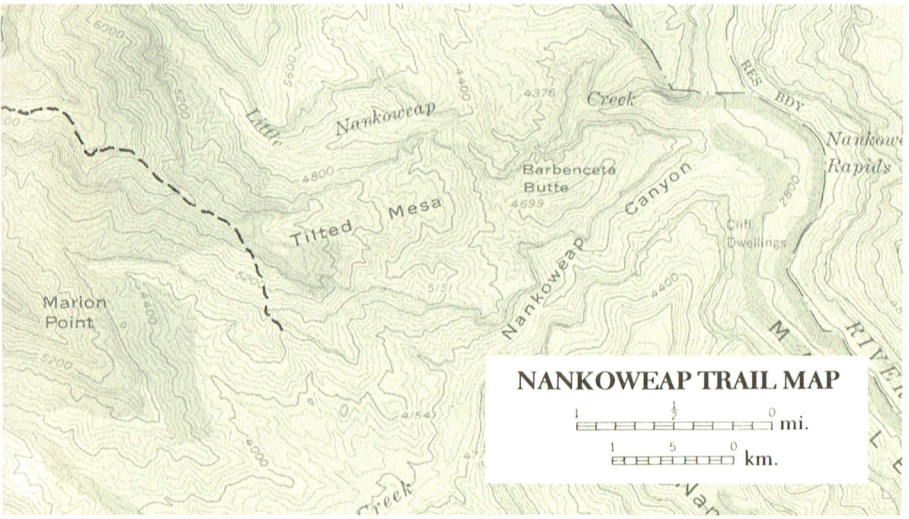
Cairns mark the trailhead at the end of USFS Fire Road #610. The trail drops directly to the saddle between the road and the first of two hills to the east. Follow the trail around the north side of the first hill, through brush to a saddle, and then round the second hill to the south, ending on its southeast shoulder. Walk northeast down the hill, across a large flat keeping to the south of a small drainage which gradually develops into a major ravine. A cairn marks the spot where the trail begins its descent into the Hermit shale.

Next, the trail goes easterly toward a saddle. As a small red hill by the saddle comes into view, watch for switchbacks to your left (north); which should not be missed. As you approach the red hill in the center of the saddle, go through its west side depression and swing south following markers through switchbacks in the Esplanade. The trail then follows a ledge beneath a large cliff in the Supai all the way to Tilted Mesa.



The place where the trail loops around the long finger between Saddle Mountain and Marion Point is easy to miss. After rounding the point, the trail is up to the left and overgrown with brush. The route traversing the Supai seems endless, precarious in spots, and rock slides in the shale slopes have obliterated much of the trail. For the last 0.3 km (0.2 mi) along the Supai, the trail gradually works its way down to meet the slope of the Redwall in the saddle west of Tilted Mesa.

The beginning of the constructed trail through the Redwall must be found. It is marked by cairns and an arrow. After descending through several switchbacks you will come to a knob; keep to the left of it. About 1.6 km (1 mi) past the knob, scramble down a slide toward a pink outcrop. This outcrop can be seen from the top of the Redwall. Go over the top of the outcrop, straight down the slope of Bright Angel Shale, and to the head of a drainage leading to Nankoweap Creek. You may follow down this drainage or left along the shale slopes toward Nankoweap Mesa to avoid boulder-hopping in the drainage. The route along the shale slopes contour along the edge of Tilted Mesa for about 1.6 km (1 mi) until a gentle ridge is reached. The trail eventually drops off the southeast side of this ridge to a constructed trail that descends through the Tapeats sandstone.



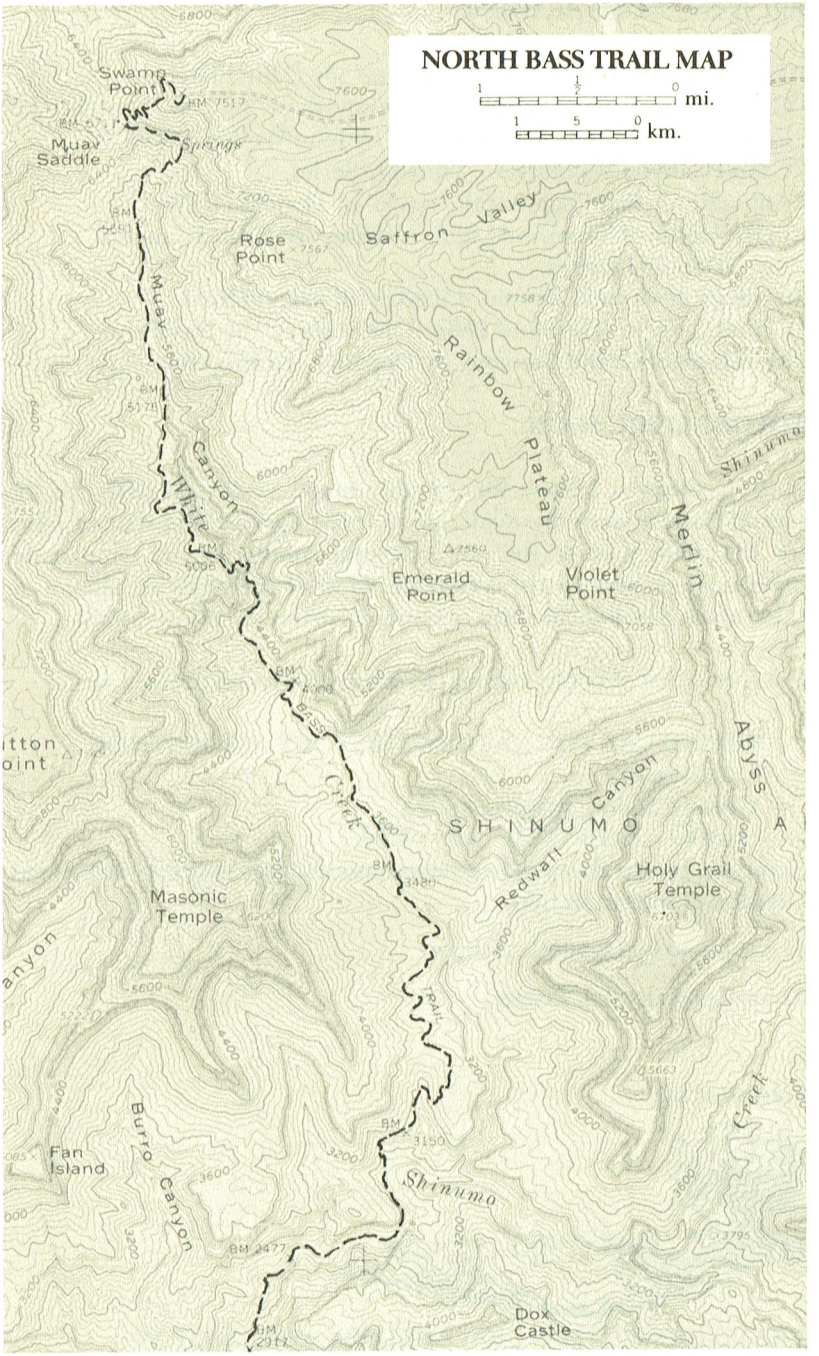
NORTH BASS TRAIL

This trail should be attempted only by experienced Grand Canyon hikers. From Swamp Point to the river is 22.5 km (14 mi). It is normally considered a 3 or 4 day trip to the river and back. Water is at the Muav Saddle Spring, in the bottom of Muav Canyon above the Redwall, and below the Redwall for 1.6 km (1 mi). White Creek is dry until Shinumo Creek is reached.

Past the first spring, below Muav Saddle, the route is very brushy as it follows along the base of the Coconino sandstone. To avoid this brushy section descend a talus slope between the Powell Plateau side trail and the spring. Leave White Creek bed at the head of the Redwall.

After crossing a deep brush canyon fairly close to its mouth, the trail climbs through three saddles, each with a small knoll to the east. Descend the Redwall through the ravine just past the third saddle. If you pass this ravine and climb to the next ridge south (where you will have good panoramic views of the canyon), then you have gone too far. Go back to the ravine you have just climbed out of. If you descend the difficult dry falls in the ravine, then you are too far down; climb up and to the south to find the trail. Traverse along the Redwall cliffs until the trail switchbacks through the obvious talus slopes to the bottom of White Creek drainage.

W. W. Bass improved this trail pioneered by a prospector named White. Bass planted a garden and orchard along the banks of Shinumo Creek, growing corn, melons, peaches, apricots and grapes.


NORTH BASS TRAIL MAP
1 0 ½ mi.
1 5 0 km.
Swamp Point
Muav Saddle
Springs
Rose Point
Saffron
Valley
Muav
Canyon
White
Rainbow
Plateau
Shinumo
Merlin
Emerald Point
Violet Point
Abyss
Bass
Canyon
Creek
SHINUMO
Redwall
Canyon
Holy Grail Temple
Masonic Temple
TRAIL
Fan Island
Burro Canyon
Shinumo
Creek
Dox Castle

RECOMMENDED READING:

"The Man Who Walked Through Time" by Colin Fletcher.
"Grand Canyon: Today and All Its Yesterdays" by J. W. Krutch.
"Exploration of the Colorado River" by John Wesley Powell.
"Grand Canyon Wilderness" Time-life Series.
"Anasazi: Ancient People of the Rock" by Donald G. Pike.
"In the House of Stone and Light: A History of Grand Canyon" by J. Donald Hughes.
"Geology of Grand Canyon" edited by Breed and Roat.
"Grand Canyon, The Story Behind the Scenery" by Dave Beal.
"Mammals of Grand Canyon" by Donald F. Hoffmeister.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

U. S. Geological Survey topographic maps, scale 1:62,500, for the Grand Canyon area are available in forest overlay and shaded relief for the main part of the park. Several smaller sized, same scale, quadrangle maps are also available. Most of the trails are shown on these maps. Geological maps of Grand Canyon are also available.

For a price list of books and maps relating to Grand Canyon write:

GRAND CANYON NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 399
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023

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